

West Elgin looks at septage system

WEST ELGIN

2003

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin is considering moving into the septic business — at least being a depot.

Council approved spending \$30,000 on a study that would set the stage for upgrades to the sewage treatment plant to receive septic waste.

"We have a need locally to dispose of human septic," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

Local companies that empty septic tanks are finding their sources drying up for places to dispose of the waste and some have approached the municipality for help.

Elvio Zaghi of Stantec, presented council with an outline of how to proceed with setting up a system to treat septic waste that could cost upwards of

\$200,000.

The study will look at issues such as how to utilize the existing sewage treatment plant and underutilized lagoons to assist with treating septage.

Zaghi said the lagoons currently are never full to capacity and much of the sludge from the treatment plant and rainwater that partially fill them evaporate.

He said the study will help determine how much more capacity can be handled at the plant and how much septage it would be able to take.

Rural areas of West Elgin have homes still on septic systems, as well as trailer parks and Zaghi said there would also be some light industrial septage being collected in this area.

He also suggested septage from other municipalities could be taken if there was enough capacity.

One of the unknowns, tied into

developing a septage treatment operation is animal waste and Zaghi said legislation affecting how that waste is handled is still not clear.

Much of these issues would still have to be addressed and Warwick said council could always decide not to actually begin treating septage.

Zaghi also said they need to look at other communities that treat septage to see how they are handling it and find a method that would most closely suit West Elgin.

"These types of projects can really drag out," he warned, adding the planning process itself adds the bulk of the time.

If council decided to pursue septage treatment, the earliest it could be available to companies pumping out septic tanks would be the latter half of 2005.

DEC. 24, 2003

Warwick takes over leadership of West Elgin, expects some rough waters ahead

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Incoming West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick will be taking the helm of a ship he thinks has weathered well in the past couple incarnations of council.

But it might not be smooth sailing ahead.

"Our ship is a good ship but the seas are rough," said Warwick.

He and the new council were sworn in Dec. 1 and while the former council has left no pressing issues, Warwick cautions there are some struggles ahead.

"The property tax burden is a bigger threat to rural services," said Warwick.

He said it is up to West Elgin to work with other municipalities to help get the message across to ban centres that they benefit from their rural counterparts and need to work with them.

Rural municipalities face

government decisions made with an urban mindset without understanding how it can place a harder pressure on the rural areas.

Warwick sees importance in getting the urban-focussed decision-makers to realize how those decisions impact rural Ontario.

From ambulance services and roads to affordable housing, the past generations of council have had their tax base pressured with extensive downloading of services from the provincial level to the county and municipal levels.

"We're small but have to be smart," he said, if council is going to maintain the ship on a smooth course.

Warwick credits past mayor Duncan McPhail and his predecessor, Harry Mezenberg with building a strong ship.

He said both have helped prepare him to take the helm, teaching him the importance of working as a team, not only as council and

municipal staff but as municipalities that have to work together as well.

"They have to work together as a team," said Warwick.

COMMITTEES SET

At the inaugural meeting, councillors were appointed to various committees.

Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle will serve on the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, Rodney Fire Board, Rodney Fair Board, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and on the Tri Counties water management board.

New councillor Mary Bodnar will serve on the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, West Elgin Community Policing Committee and on the recreation and arena boards.

Veteran councillor Trudy Balint will serve on the recreation and arena boards and the policing committee.

Councillor Michael Mooser will serve on the water management board and West Lorne Fire Board.

Dec 2003



"BEST DAMN TRUCK DRIVER"

During a council meeting, Mayor elect Graham Warwick presented "the best damn truck driver in Ontario" with the huge "Driver of the Year" trophy from the 2003 Provincial Safety Truck Rodeo. Blair Schweitzer (right), a West Elgin Roads Dept. employee, was successful through all the levels of the competition which is put on by the Association of Roads Dept Supervisors and came out on top to win the prestigious "Driver of the Year" award. While several competitors from our area have been successful at regional levels, Blair is the only competitor from our area to ever go all the way to the top.

OCT. 2003

Chronicle photo

Peters rides red wave to victory

Liberals defeat PC by 12,000 votes in Elgin-Middlesex-London

For The Chronicle

The writing was literally on the wall early that the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London had delivered incumbent Liberal MPP Steve Peters a landslide victory in last Thursday's provincial election.

Inside Peters's election night base at the St. Anne's Centre in St. Thomas, the poll-by-poll results made it clear by 8:15 p.m. that Peters was headed back to Queen's Park.

Peters crushed Progressive Conservative candidate Bruce Smith by nearly 12,000 votes in a riding he had won by just over 1,100 in 1999.

"What's happened here tonight is we've sent a message," Peters told a cheering crowd of more than 400 supporters.

"The province of Ontario has sent a message that

they are looking for change. They are looking for positive change."

Peters polled 24,914 votes to Smith's 13,148. New Democrat Bryan Bakker got 4,063, Green Party standard bearer John Fisher 673 and Ray Monteith of the Freedom Party 671.

Voter turnout in EML was 60.2 per cent, down from 64.5 per cent in the 1999 provincial vote.

The re-elected MPP goes to Queen's Park as part of a Liberal red wave that swept the Progressive Conservatives and Premier Ernie Eves from office.

Locally, all four London-area ridings went to the Liberals, who elected 72 MPPs across the province, to 24 Tories and just seven New Democrats.

It was those numbers that most impressed

Peters.

"More important is not only for me to win this riding, but to be a part of a government and not be an Opposition member," said Peters.

Smith, meanwhile, indicated his second bid at winning a riding he represented a portion of from 1995-1999 may be his last.

"Will I ever step away from politics? No, I'll always be around it, but that being said, I'll be less in the forefront and more in a supportive role," Smith said.

As to the Liberal's win, Smith wished Peters and McGuinty well. "I give the Liberals credit, they campaigned on a very undefined platform, a platform of simple change," he said.

Thursday night, Smith did not follow tradition by congratulating Peters in

person.

His campaign told Peters's campaign co-chairman Suzanne van Bommel at 10 p.m. they were offended at the antics of members of the Peters team, including Peters,

earlier in the evening.

"We went through their (campaign office) parking lot and down Talbot Street honking our horns. They thought it was ignorant," said van Bommel.

Unofficial results

Unofficial results for the 2003 provincial election in Elgin-Middlesex-London:

Candidate	Votes	%
Steve Peters (L)	24,914	57.31
Bruce Smith (PC)	13,148	30.25
Bryan Bakker (NDP)	4,063	9.35
John Fisher (G)	673	1.55
Ray Monteith (FP)	671	1.54

Total Votes Cast: 43,469
Percentage Turnout: 60.2

OCT 9/03

Meet the

candidates:

KEITH FRETTER
Position seeking: Councillor Ward 1, West Elgin.
Community Involvement: I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since arriving in the community three years ago and have just started a term as a Director. Supporter of local events/activities through sponsorship and donations.



Most Important Local Issues:
 Economic Development: The area is in urgent need of economic development to help retain residents and increase the tax base. Municipal council needs to be a leader in the effort to improve job opportunities by encouraging businesses to locate in the area, boost

tourism efforts and retain community services such as schools and doctors, which are vital in attracting and maintaining residents. I want to assist in developing a strategy to put West Elgin on the map and in the minds of companies looking for a place to locate in Southwestern Ontario. I want to encourage local artists and artisans to get involved in promotion and development of downtown areas with a view to improving tourism. I want to help develop a plan to make downtown areas more attractive to give visitors the best experience possible. With initiatives like these we can and will attract more commerce which will contribute to the betterment of local

business and the community at large.
 If the change in provincial government does not result in significant change to the delivery of education and medical services, I want to formalize a strategy in the community as a whole to create strong resistance to cuts and fight to maintain local services.
 Council must also lead the way in encouraging improvement to recycling programs and garbage disposal.

What I will bring to the council table:

A fresh face and fresh ideas, a positive attitude, an understanding of municipal affairs, determination, common sense and a caring but business-like attitude.

ROBERT N WHITE
Position seeking: West Elgin councillor, Ward 2.
Community Involvement: I have been an active part of this community since I moved here in 1992. I have served on the West Lorne Fire Department and the West Lorne Business Association.



Since amalgamation I have been an executive member of the West Elgin Chamber Of Commerce and the West Elgin representative on the St Thomas Elgin Tourist Association.
Issues in this election:
 I am a strong believer in the community of West Elgin but understand that the identities of

West Lorne, Rodney, Pt Glasgow, Eagle, Crinan and other small communities must be preserved as part of our heritage. Our farms are an important and integral part of our way of life in West Elgin.
 I moved to this area in 1992 and have raised a family in this community and am proud to call it my home. We need to continue to grow without losing the charm that makes this community a pleasure to live in. I will fight hard to keep our high school, as it is an integral part of our future. I would also work to expand our industrial base while maintaining our rural heritage. I believe this can be done if we plan and grow responsibly.

What I bring to the council table:

I graduated in 1994 from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Sociology and Philosophy. I was president of a national charity group. I had the honour of being a delegate to a national convention for policy development for a veteran's organization. I was a safety coordinator and industrial firefighter before becoming disabled due to an illness. I have always been actively involved in my community and have learned to work with all levels of government. I would like to be a part of the team that leads our community into the future.
 Thank you for considering me and for your support.

TRUDY BALINT
Position seeking: Councillor Ward 3, West Elgin
Community Involvement:
 • Civilian Instructor - #2884 WE Cadet Corps
 • Co-chaired Youth Safety Day - partnerships from The West Elgin Community Health Centre and West Elgin Police Committee
 • Canada Day Committee Member
 • Volunteer with West Lorne Optimists - Christmas Bingo, M.C. for Christmas Parade
 • West Elgin Downhill Derby Committee Member



Issues in this election:
 • By being a part of an open and

approachable Council making sound and informed decisions on how to spend our tax dollars wisely for the good of the community as a whole, is a very important issue for me
 • To keep providing our residents with safe, clean water and further expanding water lines in our rural areas.
 • Completing our Official Plan
 • Working along with our farmers on keeping our farming community active
 • To keep improving the quality of life presently enjoyed by our residents in our Municipality
 • Continue working at enhancing our Recreational Facilities (ie. Skateboard parks, new pool)

• Having a portion of the Trans Canada Trail through our community

What I will bring to the Council Table:

- six consecutive years as Councillor
- experienced at making tough decisions
- experienced committee member:
- Recreation - West Elgin Pool, Day Camp
- Arena Board - currently serving as chairperson
- West Elgin Police Committee
- West Elgin Parent Child Resource Centre
- A strong voice for our farming community

HELEN OKOLISAN
Position seeking: Councillor, Ward 3, West Elgin
 I have lived in the village of West Lorne for 55 years. I have been an active participant in our community in several capacities: I have served for two terms on West Lorne town council, successfully participated in the West Lorne business sector as a hairdresser for more than 37 years, and have proudly raised a family in



will try hard to live up to my motto: Listening and putting the people of Ward 3 and their concerns first. I understand, believe and care

the community.
Issues in this election:
 Creating and supporting economic opportunities and growth for the West Elgin Municipality, open lines of communication with myself and council, and accountability. I will make myself available, accessible and get results for Ward 3. I will try hard to live up to my motto: Listening and putting the people of Ward 3 and their concerns first. I understand, believe and care

about the needs of Ward 3 and the municipality. I will work hard on your behalf. Understanding the issues and creating the best working solutions are what I strive for and strongly support.

I look forward to meeting with the people in Ward 3 and listening to your concerns. I strongly encourage all of you to voice your support by voting on Nov. 10 to form a strong local government that understands and supports the municipality. Please vote for Helen Okolisan on Nov 10.

Wiehle named deputy mayor, in West Elgin election race

By Scott Hilgendorff
 The Chronicle

The election was a learning experience for newly elected West Elgin Deputy Mayor Bernhard Wiehle.

The newcomer defeated the more experienced Tom Jones with 595 votes to 513, according to unofficial 2003 municipal election results.

"I was quite surprised," said Wiehle who was not certain he would defeat Jones, who has had more community experience.

"It was a close race," said Wiehle, who said he was disappointed by the low voter turnout.

Actual turnout figures were not available at press time.

Wiehle is looking forward to getting started when the new council takes over in December and said it looks like a good team has been elected.

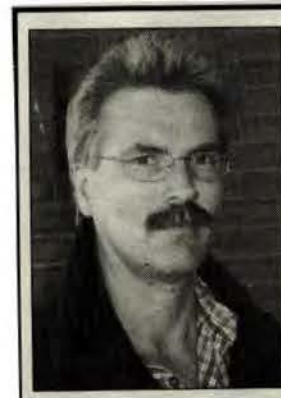
Jones could not be reached for comment.

Rounding out the West Elgin team is acclaimed mayor Graham Warwick, the current deputy mayor, who replaces the retiring Duncan McPhail.

In Ward 1, newcomer Mary Bodnar defeated Keith Fretter, also a newcomer, 314 votes to 219.

Ward 2 results sees incumbent Michael Mooser returning, having defeated Robert N. White, 277 to 128.

Incumbent Trudy Balint returns to the table representing Ward 3 after defeating Helen Okolisan 144 to 50.



**Vote For
 BERNHARD
 WIEHLE
 DEPUTY
 MAYOR**

Municipality of West Elgin

Meet the candidates: West Elgin

GRAHAM WARWICK
Position Seeking: Mayor, West Elgin, acclaimed



My name is Graham Warwick, I look after sows for Misty Lea Farms on Talbot Line and grow soya beans at home.

I am 50 years old. I have two sons Asaph 23 and Simon 21. My wife Elizabeth Sebestyen and I, have been married for 25 years and we live on Fleming Line west of Black's Road.

I was first elected as an Aldborough township councillor in 1988. I have been on council ever since, serving two terms as Deputy Mayor of West Elgin.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to serve again, this time as Mayor.

Our community has been well served by past councils.

They looked ahead, saw opportunities, prepared in

advance for them and by working together in a professional manner, made them happen, providing West Elgin with first class infrastructure. This positive attitude has attracted excellent

staff who in turn have been crucial to council's success.

I hope, with the new council to be able to meet this challenge and to make our own contribution to the growth and prosperity of West Elgin.

Municipal government is the level that most affects our day to day lives and it is also the level where people can most easily make a difference. Volunteers in West Elgin have shown they can shape this community by helping council identify priorities and find solutions. Participation of this kind is essential to maintain the level of success we have enjoyed. Our best resource is ourselves.

Finally I think we must all work together to continue to contain costs where ever we can because the property tax in recent years has been asked to pickup more and more of what used to be picked up by the

gasoline tax, income tax and corporate taxes. The full effect of this is yet to be felt and when it is, the only way to maintain services and our population base will be through cost effectiveness.

TOM JONES

Position seeking: Deputy Mayor, West Elgin



Community Involvement Since moving to West Elgin 15 years ago, I have been active in many community events. These events are definitely one of the things that make West Elgin a great place to live. I am presently (past two years) president of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce. I organized bringing the Christmas parade back to West Lorne 10-11 years ago and am always involved in the following: Canada Day and Labour Day Festivities, Slow pitch tournaments and parades and am a former West Lorne firefighter.

Important issues in this election:

I believe firstly we need to ensure that "Save our Schools in West Elgin" is a very family oriented community and a great place to raise families. These children will eventually become the future of West Elgin.

Also I would like to bring more industrial manufacturing and warehousing businesses to West Elgin to ensure more jobs to West Elgin residents now and in the future.

With expansion of more businesses it might be possible to lower taxes at sometime as there will be a larger tax base. This may also in turn promote more families moving to West Elgin.

I would also like to see more research into what we can do to assist our local farmers. From day one they have been the driving force of West Elgin and we need to preserve the family farm.

What I will bring to the council table:

My extensive business background would definitely be a plus to any council as new fresh ideas are always needed to serve the residents better.

Also I think we need to do more. Listening to the concerns of the people of West Elgin. I am always available to discuss these kinds of situations with anyone. Also as I have been the president of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, I have more input on what is needed in this municipality. I look forward to serving our residents to the best of my ability.

MICHAEL MOOSER

Position seeking: Councillor, Ward 2, West Elgin.



As your Ward Two Councillor for West Elgin I am committed to continuing with my role as your representative for Ward Two. I will support such essential projects as a walk-in Clinic in West Elgin and contribute to the decision-making process by working as a team member for the benefit of our community.

What I will bring to the council table:

- * Ward Two Councillor for West Elgin since 1997
- * Chairman of Tri-County (Elgin, Middlesex and Kent) Water Committee since 1999
- * Member of Tri-County Water Committee since 1991
- * Member of West Lorne Legion, Branch 221 (Past Executive Member) since 1991
- * Fund raiser and assistant for the Cancer Ride and Stride campaign
- * Chairman of West Lorne Public Utilities Commission
- * Commissioner of West Lorne Public Utilities Commission

I am dedicated to our community and would appreciate your support at the polls on Nov. 10. Together we can address the issues that influence our lives in West Elgin.

APPEARED IN CHRONICLE NOV. 6, 2003

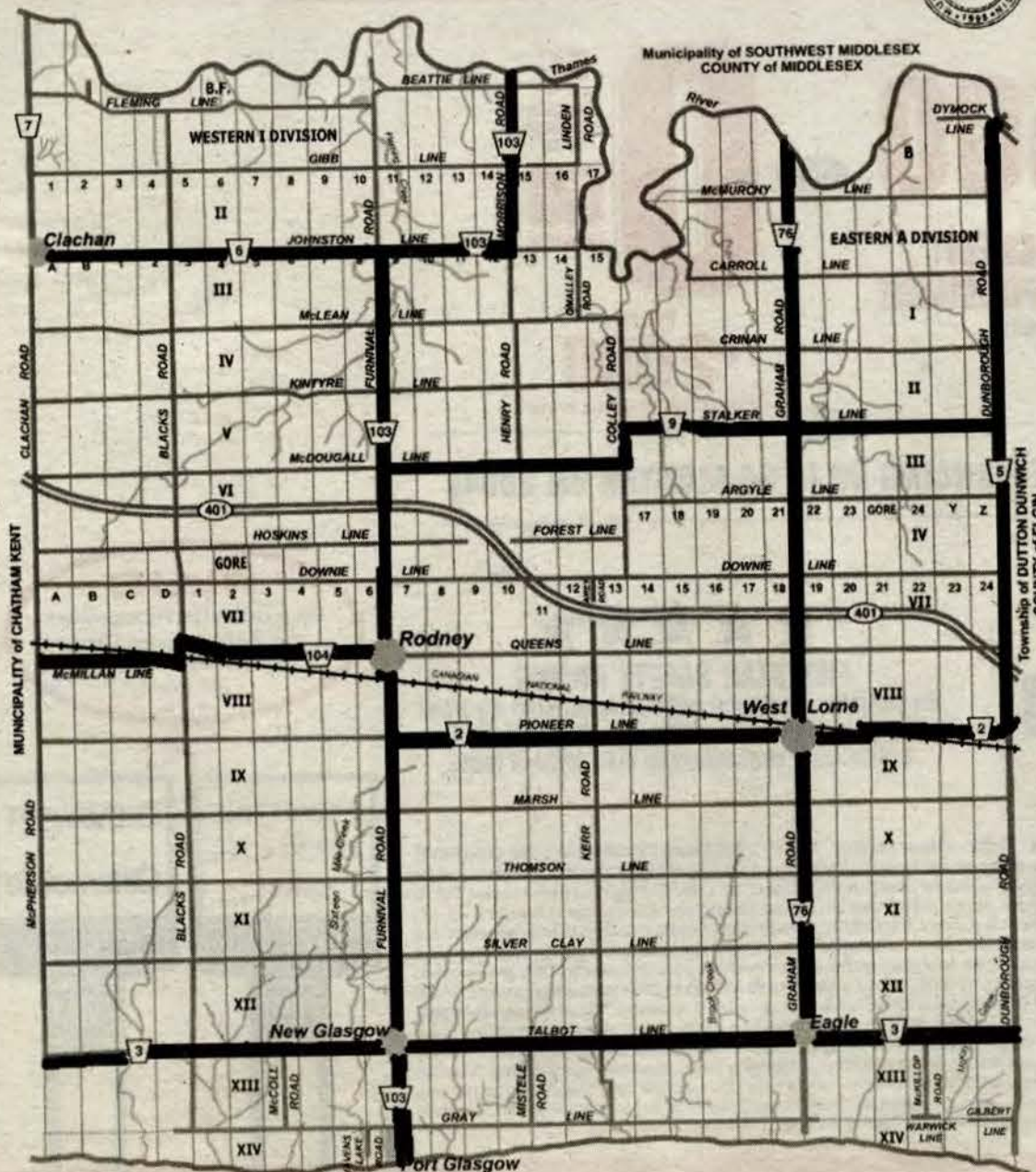
MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN NOTICE: PARKING BY-LAW

As of November 15, 2003, on County Roads (see map) the parking by-law will be enforced in its entirety, except in built-up areas where it will be enforced in the same manner as on all West Elgin municipal roads. In built-up areas and on municipal roads, tickets will be issued in the following cases:

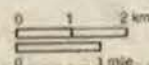
- Areas where "NO PARKING" signs have been erected
- Areas where a safety concern has been identified by the OPP
- Where complaints have been received by the municipal office and directed to OPP by municipal staff.

For a copy of fines and description of violations please contact the municipal office at 785-0560.

Municipality of WEST ELGIN



Lake Erie



**VOTE
BODNAR**
Councillor Ward 1

Mary Bodnar

